GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2761
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
ANAEMIA AMONG CHILDREN AND WOMEN
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 3.5 million people in the country are suffering from micronutrient deficiency leading to iron deficiency with anaemia prevalence among children and women; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the nutrition among the lower strata of society?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) As per the information available, blindness due to Vitamin `A` deficiency is 0.04% . Iron Deficiency Anaemia is 74.3% in children (6-35 months) and 51.8% in women.

(b) Government has taken several steps to improve the nutritional status of the population including the lower strata of society such as :-

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing out the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as :

(i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)

(ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP)

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme

(v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojna (PMGY)

(vi) Mid - day Meal Programme

- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such - as :

a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.
b) Prophylaxis due to Vitamin `A` Deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
c) Pilot Project for Control of Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.